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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-seventh session

REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE (25-27 June 1996)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The third meeting of the Executive Committee's Standing Committee was opened by His Excellency Ambassador Jakob Esper Larsen (Denmark), Chairman of the Executive Committee.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OF THE REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING

2. The Provisional Annotated Agenda (EC/46/SC/CRP.26/Rev.2) and the Draft Report of the 10-11 April Meeting of the Standing Committee (EC/46/SC/CRP.27) were both adopted without revision.

3. The Deputy High Commissioner then delivered an opening statement in which he stressed the urgent need for funding of humanitarian assistance programmes in the Great Lakes region, where the basic levels of protection and assistance sustaining 1.8 million people were now severely compromised. He expressed concern for the deteriorating situation in Burundi and also noted the Office's preoccupation with the escalation of violence in Liberia. In regard to the Balkans, UNHCR remained convinced that more could be done to improve the material conditions conducive to return. Eighteen priority areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina had been targeted for immediate assistance in rebuilding basic community infrastructures. He further noted the formal closure of the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese refugees on 30 June and reviewed evolving situations elsewhere in the world.

III. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

4. Under this item, the Standing Committee had before it five documents for discussion: Note on International Protection (EC/46/SC/CRP.37 and Corr.1); Progress Report on Informal Consultations on the Provision of International Protection to all who need it (EC/46/SC/CRP.34); UNHCR's role in National Legal and Judicial Capacity-Building (EC/46/SC/CRP.31); Resettlement: an Instrument of Protection and a Durable Solution (EC/46/SC/CRP.32); and The Return of Persons not in need of International Protection (EC/46/SC/CRP.36 and Corr.1). An information note on documentation recently issued by the Division of International Protection (EC/46/SC/CRP.39) was also available.

A. Note on International Protection

5. Introducing the Note on International Protection (EC/46/SC/CRP.37), the Director of the Division of International Protection reminded delegations that this year's Note attempted to analyse the positive and enabling role that a consistent and widely accepted protection framework can contribute to comprehensive responses to refugee situations. He stressed the need to move away from the compartmentalization of issues which cause population displacement and which are relevant to resolving refugee problems. In particular, the various and complex dimensions of current and likely future refugee problems demanded the promotion of collective responses in order effectively to address their political, economic and social aspects

6. In the ensuing debate, there was widespread recognition of the need for comprehensive regional or sub-regional approaches to refugee situations, guided by the need for protection and solutions. The basic thrust of the Note was generally accepted; certain aspects nonetheless were queried. Several delegations cited the recently concluded CIS Conference as a model of a comprehensive regional approach, particularly in the context of prevention. Most delegations recognized the crucial link between human rights violations and refugee flows or involuntary displacement, and agreed that a commitment to protection principles, and to universal standards, should constitute the basis for such comprehensive approaches. The need for international solidarity was also highlighted by some delegations in this context.

7. Acknowledging the value of collective responses, it was nonetheless pointed out that there could be no single blueprint: flexibility would be required to accommodate differences in conflicts and regions. A few delegations noted that UNHCR did not spell out a precise role for itself in comprehensive approaches. As the Note itself suggested, UNHCR's perspective may assist in the identification of protection-based comprehensive approaches.

8. Responding to the debate, the Director thanked delegations for their constructive comments and concluded that UNHCR welcomed further discussion with the Executive Committee on the role that it might envision for UNHCR in this area generally, as well as in specific refugee situations.

B. Progress report on informal consultations on the provision of international protection to all who need it

9. The Chief of General Legal Advice introduced EC/46/SC/CRP.34. Most delegations expressed support for UNHCR's initiative in this area, and encouraged the Office to continue the process, keeping the Executive Committee informed. Several delegations also expressed interest in participating in the consultations; yet others proposed the involvement in this process of regional expertise as well as international NGOs.

10. One delegation suggested that the first aim of the consultations should be to find ways to enhance the implementation of existing instruments, most notably the 1951 Convention, rather than developing new instruments. The desirability of drawing on good examples and lessons learnt was also mentioned, as was the importance of consistency and certainty in the protection provided. A number of delegations referred to temporary protection, including related issues regarding return, and state responsibility.

C. UNHCR's role in national legal and judicial capacity-building

11. Conference Room Paper EC/46/SC/CRP.31 was introduced by the Chief of UNHCR's Promotion of Refugee Law Section. In the ensuing debate, most delegations generally welcomed efforts being undertaken by UNHCR to assist Governments in strengthening national legal and judicial capacity. Several delegations recognized the importance of such activities in enabling Governments better to carry out their international obligations, particularly as a factor in sustainable reintegration of returning refugees.

12. While welcoming such activities, several delegations also cited the need for UNHCR to bear in mind its specific mandate and resource considerations. They emphasized the importance of associating other actors, notably the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNDP and regional bodies, to ensure that initiatives undertaken by UNHCR form part of a broader framework and avoid duplication. A few delegations also emphasized that UNHCR should undertake such activities at the request of, and in cooperation with, the Government concerned. The CIS Programme of Action was cited as a positive example. Some delegations suggested that it may be useful to broaden the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, in particular its Sub-Committee on Internally Displaced Persons, to include other agencies that could play a useful role.

D. Resettlement: an instrument of protection and a durable solution

13. The Chief of the Resettlement Section introduced EC/46/SC/CRP.32 and informed the Standing Committee of efforts being made to take full advantage of existing resettlement opportunities, reinforce management and assess resettlement needs in the broader context of solutions. An overview was provided on the conclusions of the first formal consultation on resettlement involving Governments and NGOs (Geneva, 24 June 1996).

14. Several delegations commended the Conference Room Paper and reaffirmed their continuing commitment to resettlement as an instrument of protection and as a durable solution. Many delegations welcomed the issuance of the Resettlement Handbook and the increased attention being accorded to

resettlement issues. A number of delegations stressed the usefulness of the Working Group on Resettlement as a forum for discussing criteria and regional approaches, and called on more States to resettle refugees.

E. The return of persons not in need of international protection

15. Conference Room Paper EC/46/SC/CRP.36 was introduced by the Chief of General Legal Advice. Some delegations emphasized the difficulties their countries face in returning persons not in need of international protection and referred particularly to the problems of illegal migration and undocumented rejected asylum-seekers, as well as the negative impact that these problems could have for other asylum-seekers.

16. There was concurrence with UNHCR's emphasis on satisfactory refugee status determination procedures and criteria and other protection mechanisms to ensure that persons in need of international protection are not affected. A number of delegations stressed the obligation of countries of origin to readmit their own nationals, while others urged the need to view the issue in a broader context, in particular, to link it to comprehensive approaches. Some delegations also suggested that a more systematic assessment by States of the problems associated with particular rejected caseloads would be a useful step in this process.

17. Summing up, the Chairman reiterated the overwhelming acceptance of comprehensive approaches, as detailed in the Note, and recalled that all the Conference Room Papers had generally been welcomed and endorsed by the Standing Committee. The Chairman informed delegations that the draft Conclusions on International Protection would be circulated in the summer, for discussion at the September meeting of the Standing Committee.

IV. ANNUAL THEME

18. The Secretary introduced this item, proposing that the pursuit and implementation of durable solutions be used as the annual theme to be debated at the forty-seventh meeting of the Executive Committee.

19. One delegation asked what role the annual theme was to play; what tangible results were envisaged from it; and what the process was for selecting the theme. The same delegation suggested that, in future, annual theme proposals should be discussed at the April Standing Committee. Other delegations suggested amendments to the draft decision, which were included in the adopted decision (annexed).

20. Responding, the Secretary recalled that an important element of the recent reform of Executive Committee working methods was to link the work of the Standing Committee with that of the plenary items thus ensuring that the entire agenda of Executive Committee meetings formed a coherent whole. The debate on the annual theme served on the one hand to consolidate discussions in previous international meetings and to identify areas for further study in the Standing Committee's Programme of work. He welcomed the suggestion that the proposal for the annual theme should henceforth be discussed at the April meeting of the Standing Committee.

V. PROGRAMME AND FUNDING ISSUES

21. The Standing Committee had before it a document entitled, Update on Programme and Funding Projections for 1996 and Tentative Estimates for the 1997 General Programmes Target (EC/46/SC/CRP.30) and an amended draft decision.

22. In the review of 1996 programmes, it was pointed out that General Programmes remained at the approved level of $ 445.3 million; programme needs under Special Programmes were now projected at $ 949.6 million. The uses made of, and reimbursements to, the Emergency Fund and the Voluntary Repatriation Fund were also reviewed. Drawings on the Programme Reserve were also considered. The current funding situation was also presented; this was comparable to the level of contributions at the same time in 1995. With overall 1996 needs projected at some $ 1.4 billion, donors were asked to be generous. The Standing Committee was reminded of the funding priority which the Office attached to General Programmes; the trend of increased contributions over the last two years to these programmes was welcomed. Funds to support operations related to solutions (e.g. Horn of Africa, West Africa, Angola, Guatemala, Afghanistan, Myanmar, South-East Asia and former Yugoslavia) and for the Caucasus were needed urgently, as were funds for operations in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa.

23. The tentative 1997 budget estimate of $ 452.6 million was presented and explained. It included a Programme Reserve set at 10 per cent of programmed activities. The level of the 1996 General Programmes showed an increase of 1.6 per cent over the approved 1995 level.

24. Delegations made statements or posed questions on a number of particular operations (Horn of Africa, former Yugoslavia, Cyprus, West Africa) and other items (the impact of United Nations Regular Budget cuts; the fundability of the General Programme increase; the strategy for the termination of individual General Programmes; criteria for allocations under the funds/reserve). The need to broaden UNHCR's donor base was underlined by several delegations. The trend of increased contributions to General Programmes was also welcomed.

25. Responding, the Secretariat expressed the opinion that the new proposed General Programmes target was fundable; recent trends in contributions to General Programmes were positive; and that the full funding of General Programmes was a UNHCR priority.

26. The Standing Committee adopted the related revised Decision on Programme and Funding (annexed).

VI. REGIONAL REVIEW

A. Overview of regional developments in Africa

27. The Standing Committee had before it an Update on Regional Developments in Africa (EC/46/SC/CRP.35, and Corr.1). Opening the item, the Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa briefed delegations on the latest developments in the region. Regarding the Great Lakes, he depicted a currently bleak scenario, and delineated the six points of a proposed Plan of Action for resolving the Rwanda/Burundi refugee situation. The points included plans to separate military from civilian elements in the camps; the transfer of some camps away from border regions; the elimination of a prevailing sense of impunity and encouraging the Rwandan Government's efforts to establish structures to begin genocide-related trials; the provision of more assistance to host countries, thereby safeguarding asylum; the confirmation of pledges made during the Round Table conference on Rwanda; and the encouragement of a dialogue between the Rwandan Government and refugee communities. The Director also spoke of the chaotic situation in Liberia, and urged neighbouring countries to continue to accept refugees from that conflict. He noted the work that remained to be done in East Africa and the Horn of Africa, and drew some hope from the changed circumstances in Angola, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

28. Taking the floor on this item, one delegation suggested that the push/pull strategy proposed during the Rwanda Round Table be incorporated into the proposed Plan of Action. Another delegation supported the deployment of international military observers in the airports of eastern Zaire to monitor arms trafficking. Yet another expressed support for President Nyerere's initiatives to resolve the Great Lakes crisis. The proposed plan of action was generally welcomed.

29. Several delegations cited a close link between safeguarding the institution of asylum and rehabilitation/economic development, with a number of them insisting that the international community had to provide more support to poorer host countries caring for large refugee populations. The deleterious consequences of resource shortages - including environmental degradation, armed robbery and poaching - were detailed by one delegation. Resettlement or the creation of safe zones within countries of origin were suggested as two means of easing asylum countries' burdens. One delegation announced that its Government was disbursing aid in such a way as to encourage a culture of peace. Another delegation announced that its Government was co-sponsoring a conference on development for Western and Central Africa with the Ivorian Government which would take place in Abidjan in August.

30. Regarding West Africa, one delegation was of the opinion that repatriation to Liberia could not take place before the deployment of peace-keeping forces throughout the country and the disarmament of factions. In this regard, the Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa supported one delegation's call for more support to be provided to the West African peace-keeping force (ECOMOG). Citing a reference in the Update, one delegation denied that there could be genuine Ogoni refugees in Benin.

31. Speaking on East Africa and the Horn of Africa, one delegation noted with satisfaction the expected repatriation of 50,000 Ethiopian refugees from the Sudan by the end of 1996, but mentioned that more efforts should be made to assist their reintegration. Another expressed concern at certain violent acts to which Sudanese refugees in Kakuma camp, Kenya, have been exposed.

B. Report of the Chairman on his mission to India, Bhutan and Nepal

32. The Chairman then delivered an oral report on his 6-27 January mission to India, Bhutan and Nepal. He detailed his discussions with the Governments of Bhutan and Nepal, during which he endeavoured to facilitate a solution to problems caused by refugees and other persons who have come to Nepal from Bhutan. The Chairman also described his talks with Indian government officials, and United Nations and NGO representatives concerning UNHCR's presence and activities in India.

C. Conclusion of the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA)

33. Three delegations took the floor to mark the formal conclusion of the CPA. They observed that while repatriation patterns shifted, the cooperation of the Governments of the host countries and the countries of origin remained constant. Some delegations noted the need for UNHCR and the international community to continue to search for solutions for the remaining refugees among the caseload, and said that emphasis should continue to be placed on the reintegration needs of the returnees in countries of origin. The Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and Oceania stated that UNHCR would continue, in a good offices capacity, to support repatriation and care and maintenance costs for non-refugees until end-September 1996. He also acknowledged the complexity of the Hong Kong situation.

VII. REPORTS RELATING TO OVERSIGHT

A. Lessons learnt from the Rwanda Emergency

34. The Standing Committee had before it a document entitled Lessons Learnt from the Rwanda Emergency: Further Reflections (EC/46/SC/CRP.28). The Head of the DANIDA Evaluation Unit and Chairman of the Steering Committee of the OECD/DAC Joint Evaluation Committee summarized the Report's main findings and recommendations. The Director of the Inspection and Evaluation Service (IES) then formally introduced the paper to the Committee.

35. Several delegations expressed their interest in guidelines on contingency planning but were concerned about the implied funding requirements if the planning were to be country-specific. Two delegations stressed the importance of refugee registration, with one enquiring as to the prospects for another census following that of February 1995.

36. Lack of coordination at field level, the problem of overlapping mandates and rivalries of agencies involved, and the problem of the management of emergencies at Headquarters were raised by a number of delegations as issues which required serious attention. One delegation asked for an explanation on the division of responsibility between DHA and UNHCR on service packages; another wondered if UNHCR had tried to find countries willing to contribute to them. Other issues raised were those of the availability of an internal

study on Rwanda, and of implementing partners' accountability and their compliance with UNHCR's procedures.

37. In reply, the Head of the DANIDA Evaluation Unit said coordination was, and remained, a problem. The Head of IES said that a broader UNHCR internal study would address the problems of coordination and communication, and that the main conclusions from that study would be made available in the report of IES to the Executive Committee. He confirmed that security in camps was on the work programme for his Service for this year, and reassured delegates that a UNHCR control of NGO standards and accountability was part of the ongoing Delphi Project. Adding to the responses, the Director of the Division of Programmes and Operational Support said that a summary of guidelines on contingency planning would be made available, and that the importance of registration was well understood. He said that coordination of development of service packages lay now with DHA (MCDU), and went on to say that Governments had indicated that decisions as to the availability of service packages could only be made at the time of request.

38. The annexed draft decision was adopted with no amendments.

B. Internal oversight mechanism

39. The draft report of the Secretary-General on enhancing internal oversight mechanisms (EC/46/SC/CRP.29) was reviewed by the Standing Committee. A summary of discussions follows:

40. The Director of the Inspection and Evaluation Service introduced the Secretary-General's draft report, adding that UNHCR agreed with its recommendations and hoped that the Standing Committee would concur and approve the draft decision attached.

41. Questions were raised by two delegations as how the monitoring of implementation of recommendations was carried out at present, whether current mechanisms were sufficient in UNHCR, and if not, what measures were being taken.

42. Regarding the report's observation that there were higher budgets for audit than for evaluations in relief operations, several delegations urged an increase in evaluations, commenting that evaluations could be carried out either in-house or otherwise. If the need for audits in humanitarian programmes was apparent, as cited in paragraph 16 of the report, the necessity for evaluations in UNHCR's programmes was no less apparent, one delegation felt.

43. Several delegations wanted to know UNHCR's views on the question of an investigation unit and stated that UNHCR's existing capacity for investigation (see Recommendation 3 (para. 40)) should be reflected in the conclusions.

44. A question was raised by some delegations on the organization of cooperation between the organization's oversight functions. It was considered generally that monthly oversight meetings would be too frequent. An additional query was made concerning the working of UNHCR's Audit Committee.

45. More information was sought about reporting procedures, and the report's suggestion that periodic comprehensive and ad hoc reports be submitted to the governing body. One delegation asked UNHCR to inform the Standing Committee members what measures had been taken in this regard.

46. Information was again requested on the proposal, in Recommendation 7, to complement the reporting line of OIOS to the General Assembly with summary records of UNHCR's internal oversight issues. On this latter issue, one delegation said that more dialogue was needed. Another delegation, however, welcomed the idea, noting that this would strengthen transparency, allowing the General Assembly to monitor oversight activities within each organization, thus revealing overall achievements and areas of concern.

47. One delegation said it expected UNHCR to make use of OIOS and, reciprocally, that OIOS would have access to UNHCR. While strongly supporting OIOS, the delegation assured UNHCR that this did not constitute a lack of confidence in the organization.

48. Other points raised by delegations included the actual siting of the evaluation function -preferred, by one delegation, to be merged with inspection - and wish to receive more reports on oversight from the Inspector and the Controller.

49. Replying to the interventions, the Director said a working group on oversight had been established within the Delphi Project and its report, just submitted, was being discussed. It covered some of the issues raised by the delegations such as investigation, cooperation between oversight units and reporting procedures. They were at present under review by Senior Management. Once agreed upon, they would be part of the overall plan of action for implementation of the changes within the organization.

50. The Director agreed that the monitoring of the implementation of recommendations was of vital importance and constituted a measure of success. The Inspection and Evaluation Service had set up a database which registered all recommendations, as well as a system for follow-up three months after the issuance of each report. OIOS did have access, he said, to UNHCR's documentation.

51. For his part, UNHCR's Controller pointed out the distinction between external and internal audit, and confirmed that monitoring of internal audit recommendations was systematically carried out. UNHCR monitored the implementation of each individual recommendation, he said. Reporting to OIOS was on a quarterly basis on the level of implementation and he stressed that OIOS had full access to UNHCR accounts and operations through AMCD.

52. Amendments proposed to the draft decision led to discussion as to how the Standing Committee's comments on the draft report were to be conveyed to the Secretary-General. The Secretariat said a résumé of the discussions

would be circulated to delegations for their comments and then relayed to the Secretary-General by the High Commissioner. The annexed amended draft decision was approved.

VIII. ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1995/56

53. The Director of the Geneva office of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs opened this item by providing a general briefing on the DHA-established inter-agency task force and progress made in considering the ECOSOC resolution in the governing bodies of other agencies. The Director of UNHCR's Division of External Relations then presented the document entitled Follow-up to ECOSOC Resolution 1995/56: UNHCR Activities in Relation to Prevention (EC/46/SC/CRP.33).

54. A number of delegations took the floor on this item, focusing their remarks around questions of UNHCR's mandate for prevention, complementarity with other humanitarian actors, costs and early warning. Speaking on the first of these points, one delegation made it clear that it regarded UNHCR's prevention activities as an unwelcome extension of its original mandate; another also expressed its reservations, upholding the need for state consent before undertaking such activities. Other delegations, however, voiced their support for preventive activities, particularly those that reinforced national capacity. Several delegations underlined the importance of avoiding overlap in implementing preventive activities, and invoked the logic of either DHA or lead-agency coordination. Some delegations cited the cost-effectiveness of prevention, noting the big savings to be reaped from small investments in prevention. Another cautioned against a large UNHCR role in countries of origin, saying that the Office might thereby be overextending its resources. Two delegations noted with concern the apparent funding of emergency response operations at the cost of development activities. Some delegations asked the DHA representative about early warning systems.

55. In his response, the DHA representative noted that while there was no single model for coordination, DHA was attempting to ensure predictable complementarity - institutionalizing who does what, and when. Regarding the lead agency concept, he acknowledged its usefulness, but observed that it was not an impartial mechanism, and should not be applied automatically. On the question of early warning systems, the representative cited three elements that DHA considered essential: Humanitarian Early Warning System; ReliefWeb, or internet accessible information; and weekly meetings with the United Nations' Departments of Political Affairs and of Peace-Keeping Operations. UNHCR's Director of the Division of External Relations, in his response, cited relief-to-development collaboration with, inter alia, the World Bank and UNDP. He also noted that the Office was working on memoranda of understanding with other agencies. He ended by reminding delegations that a synthesis of the Standing Committee discussions on ECOSOC resolution 1995/56 would be presented to the September Standing Committee in the form of a draft conclusion for eventual adoption by the forty-seventh session of the Executive Committee.

IX. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

56. The Deputy High Commissioner introduced a progress report on Project Delphi (EC/46/SC/CRP.38), noting that the process has been an almost entirely in-house exercise focused on three broad areas of UNHCR's management processes-operations, people and money. Staff participation, key to the change management process, was reinforced with an extensive staff survey in March, which identified several key areas perceived as needing improvement. Consolidating output from the survey, the focus groups and more than 100 Delphi cells world-wide, the Change Management Group Report, submitted to the High Commissioner in May, presented a broad conceptual framework of the changes needed. Project Delphi then entered Phase Two, the aim of which is to transform the conceptual framework into a Plan of Action by the end of August. The High Commissioner had agreed to the creation of a Change Management Support and Coordination Unit to implement the Plan of Action. Existing posts in the Organization and Methods Section will be redeployed to staff this unit. The Plan of Action, once endorsed by the High Commissioner, would be forwarded to the Standing Committee for consideration at its September meeting.

X. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A. Rental costs

57. The Controller introduced Montbrillant Building: Rental Costs (EC/46/SC/CRP.40) to the Standing Committee by pointing out that, when the issue of the rental agreement for the Montbrillant building had been discussed by the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters in previous years, the proposed rent had been based on an interest rate of 3 per cent and a repayment over 99 years of the loan contracted by FIPOI to construct the building. In response to a letter from the High Commissioner on 2 January 1996 to the Head of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in Geneva, the Swiss authorities had made a new offer, subject to parliamentary approval, of a rent package based on 0 per cent interest and repayment of the loan over 50 years. This offer would result in a reduction of the rent by some SwF 1.3 million. It was as a result of this new offer that UNHCR was presenting a brief paper on the subject to the Standing Committee to ask for their endorsement in formalizing the new arrangements.

58. The Swiss delegation pointed out that the offer presented to UNHCR was in line with that offered to all other international organizations in Geneva, and that in recognition of UNHCR's humanitarian mandate, they were willing to make an additional annual contribution to the Office of SwF 2 million. The Swiss delegation also indicated that they would appreciate a decision at the current Standing Committee so that the rental agreement could be finalized with UNHCR and the authorities could begin discussions on some required alterations to the building.

59. Other delegations felt that more time and information on which to base a decision should have been available. Delegations asked specifically for comparative rental costs for other such premises in Geneva, as well as a comparison with the rental arrangements offered to other international organizations in the city. Questions were raised about the percentage, if

any, of management charges that were included in the rental amount, and whether the ACABQ had made any recommendations on the subject.

60. In his response, the Controller pointed out that the Montbrillant rent was significantly cheaper than other rents paid by UNHCR as well as average commercial rents in Geneva. He nonetheless acknowledged the need expressed by delegations to have more time and information before a decision could be taken. It was decided that the issue would be placed on the agenda of the next Standing Committee meeting, and that UNHCR would provide a more comprehensive paper on the subject at that time.

B. Support costs of international NGO partners

61. The Standing Committee, in accord with its decision taken at its second session on the Support Costs of International NGO Partners (EC/46/CRP.27, Annex, II, para. (f)), addressed the question of the initial standard percentage for such support. The background to the issue was set out by the Rapporteur. A draft decision which was the result of informal consultations and which set the initial standard percentage at 5 per cent (with provision for transitional arrangements) was adopted without discussion (annexed).

62. There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE THIRD STANDING COMMITTEE

I. DECISION ON THE ANNUAL THEME

The Standing Committee,

Recalling the decision taken at the forty-sixth session of the Executive Committee that the General Debate will be discontinued and be replaced by a debate on a focused annual theme to be selected in consultation with the High Commissioner and the Standing Committee at a meeting held at least three months before the annual plenary session (A/AC.96/860, para. 32(h)),

(a) Decides that the annual theme to be discussed at the forty-seventh session of the Executive Committee will be the pursuit and implementation of durable solutions;

(b) Considers that the debate on the annual theme should be conducted, inter alia, on the basis of relevant work undertaken at the inter-sessional meetings of the Standing Committee, notably in respect of the Note on International Protection (EC/46/SC/CRP.37), which focuses on comprehensive approaches, including the issue of prevention, and with regard to the follow up to ECOSOC resolution 1995/56;

(c) Requests the High Commissioner to submit to the plenary session appropriate background documentation to provide a framework for the debate.

II. DECISION ON PROGRAMME AND FUNDING PROJECTIONS

The Standing Committee,

Recalling the decision of the forty-sixth session of the Executive Committee on programme, administrative and financial matters,

(a) Notes that the overall revised needs for 1996 are currently estimated at some $ 1.4 billion, of which projected needs for General Programmes remain at $ 445.3 million (including $500,000 which have been transferred from the Programme Reserve to the Fund for the International Field Staff Housing and Basic Amenities, as indicated in EC/46/SC/CRP.30, Annex V), as approved by the Executive Committee at its forty-sixth session, and those for Special Programmes are $949.6 million;

(b) Notes also the tentative budget estimates for 1997 General Programmes as set out in document EC/46/SC/CRP.30, which include a Programme Reserve estimated at 10 per cent of programmed activities;

(c) Notes the current level of contributions to UNHCR's programmes as well as the appeal of the High Commissioner to donor Governments for further announcements of contributions so as to permit continuation and timely implementation of the various assistance programmes.

III. DECISION ON LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE RWANDA EMERGENCY

The Standing Committee,

(a) Takes note of EC/46/SC/CRP.28 on Lessons Learnt from the Rwanda Emergency: Further Reflections;

(b) Welcomes measures taken by the High Commissioner to improve the emergency response capacity of the Office through the further development of rapid response mechanisms and standby arrangements;

(c) Underlines the importance of contingency planning and encourages efforts by UNHCR to develop guidelines in this respect, in consultation with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and other United Nations agencies;

(d) Notes with satisfaction the emphasis placed in UNHCR's newly issued Programme Management Handbook on the selection, control and coordination of implementing partners in emergency situations;

(e) Encourages UNHCR to continue to play a catalytic role in initiating programmes that aim to assist local populations in areas affected by large concentrations of refugees;

(f) Commends the High Commissioner on innovative initiatives taken to improve security conditions in refugee camps in the Great Lakes region but notes, nevertheless, with concern the deteriorating security situation in parts of the region;

(g) Calls on UNHCR to participate actively in inter-agency consultations on the recommendations of the Joint Evaluation of Emergency Assistance to Rwanda, in particular in the interagency working groups established within the framework of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to review ECOSOC resolution 1995/56 on the Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations;

(h) Asks to be kept informed, in the context of UNHCR's periodic reports on emergency responses and on ECOSOC resolution 1995/56, of progress made in respect of the follow up of lessons learnt from the Rwanda emergency.

IV. DECISION ON INTERNAL OVERSIGHT MECHANISMS

The Standing Committee,

Recalling paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 48/218B requesting the Secretary-General to consult with the Executive Boards of the United Nations operational funds and programmes before submitting a detailed report to the Assembly on enhancing the internal oversight mechanisms in operational funds and programmes,

(a) Notes with appreciation the draft of the report of the Secretary-General on enhancing the internal oversight mechanism in operational funds and programmes;

(b) Welcomes the increased attention to oversight which the report reveals;

(c) Emphasizes the importance, as reflected in recommendation 5 of the draft report of the Secretary-General, of ensuring adequate mechanisms within UNHCR for continually monitoring the implementation of recommendations from oversight activities;

(d) Notes with satisfaction that the report reflects the progress made by UNHCR in strengthening oversight mechanisms within the Office;

(e) Urges the High Commissioner to continue to cooperate with the Office of Internal Oversight Services in enhancing internal oversight mechanisms, bearing in mind also the comments made by the Standing Committee;

(f) Requests the High Commissioner to convey to the Secretary-General the comments of the Standing Committee on the draft of his report to the General Assembly.

V. DECISION ON THE HEADQUARTERS SUPPORT COSTS OF INTERNATIONAL NGO PARTNERS

The Standing Committee,

(a) Recalls the decision taken at its meeting on 10-11 April 1996 (EC/46/SC/CRP.26) on the subject of headquarters support costs of international NGO partners, in particular para. (f) which resolved to determine the initial standard percentage for such support costs at its June 1996 meeting;

(b) Decides that the initial standard percentage shall be 5 per cent;

(c) Notes that, while this percentage should be applicable henceforth for new agreements, operational considerations may require a transition period for existing implementing arrangements that provide for a higher percentage, and authorizes UNHCR to maintain that higher percentage through 1997 in such cases;

(d) Requests UNHCR to collect, maintain and analyse data on the impact of this decision, including the cost breakdown, and to present this information to the first Standing Committee of 1998;

(e) Decides to review the situation, including the level of the standard percentage, in the first half of 1998.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-seventh session

REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE (16-17 SEPTEMBER AND 2 OCTOBER 1996)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The fourth meeting of the Executive Committee's Standing Committee was opened by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, His Excellency Ambassador Jakob Esper Larsen (Denmark).

2. The Deputy High Commissioner delivered an opening statement in which he reviewed major developments since the June Standing Committee. He noted that continued support of donor and asylum countries alike remained crucial for refugees in the Great Lakes region of Africa. He recalled progress toward durable solutions in other parts of Africa, citing prospects for voluntary return in north-western Somalia, Ethiopia, Angola and perhaps Liberia. In regard to the former Yugoslavia, he said that while returns remained impeded by restraints on freedom of movement and lack of progress in guaranteeing rights, UNHCR was confident that returns to 22 target areas could be increased significantly if rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts were accelerated. In response to the situation in Northern Iraq, the High Commissioner had approved release of $ 3.6 million from the Emergency Fund for relief items for the over 35,000 persons who had already fled to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OF THE REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING

3. The *Provisional Annotated Agenda* (EC/46/SC/CRP.41/Rev.1) and the *Draft Report of the Third Meeting of the Standing Committee* (EC/46/SC/CRP.42) were both adopted without revision.

III. REGIONAL REVIEWS

A Overview of Regional Developments in the Americas and the Caribbean

4. Introducing the *Update on Regional Developments in the Americas and the Caribbean* (EC/46/SC/CRP.43), the Director of the Regional Bureau for the Americas and the Caribbean briefed delegations on the latest developments in the region. He recalled the considerable progress that had been made there in the implementation of solutions for refugees over the last decade. Only 82,000 of the estimated 1.5 million persons of concern to the Office still required material support, and 32,000 of them were in the final phases of reintegration in their own countries. He pointed out that the single group of refugees still in need of a durable solution was the 38,000 Guatemalan refugees residing in camps and settlements in Mexico. In this regard he welcomed the announcement by the Minister of the Interior of Mexico, on 14 August 1996, of a new policy of "stabilization" for this group, a further illustration of the generous policy of Mexico, which would help resolve this long-standing refugee situation through a combination of local integration and continued voluntary repatriation. The Director added that a UNHCR mission would develop, in cooperation with the two Governments concerned, a comprehensive multi-year plan to finalize durable solutions for Guatemalan refugees in both Mexico and Guatemala.

5. The Director also spoke of the cooperation agreements entered into by UNHCR with the Ombudsmen in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, aimed at reinforcing the institutional capacity of the Offices of the Ombudsmen in the field of protection. In the framework of the consolidation of durable solutions and in terms of prevention of refugee flows, UNHCR attached great importance to this innovative form of cooperation with national institutions in the field of human rights. The Director announced a forthcoming Regional Forum on Human Rights, Refugees and Migration in Central America, to be held in San José, Costa Rica, and convened by the Central American Council of Ombudsmen, with the active support and participation of UNHCR. In connection with the rationalization, streamlining and re-structuring of its presence in the continent over the next few years, he announced that, effective 1 January 1997, the Regional Office in Mexico would become responsible for all of Central America, with the support of a Liaison Office in Costa Rica. At a later stage, a similar merger would take place in the south with the Regional Office in Caracas assuming responsibility for all the countries in South America, assisted by a Liaison Office in Buenos Aires.

6. The Director closed his presentation with a reference to the process of revision of the immigration legislation in the United States of America and the ongoing review of the procedures of the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board. He said the Office was engaged in intensive dialogue with the authorities of both countries to ensure that the common objective of upholding asylum for genuine cases would be achieved.

7. Intervening on this item, one delegation expressed strong support for the "stabilization" plan for the Guatemalan refugees and underlined the need to continue facilitating voluntary repatriation to Guatemala. Several delegations welcomed the positive development in Mexico. Others called for a rapid finalization of durable solutions for Guatemalan refugees.

8. One delegation highlighted the progress made in reaching a final peace agreement in Guatemala and the role played by its Government in facilitating the process. The delegation underlined that once the peace agreement was concluded, Guatemala would continue to require support from the international community. Another delegation noted the downward revised projected number of Guatemalan returnees for 1996 (from 12,000 to 8,000). The delegation was aware that the repatriation process had been hampered by serious protection incidents and access to land and wondered if there were other reasons for the downward trend. The delegation also raised the issue of assistance to internally displaced persons.

9. On the issue of the cooperation agreements between UNHCR and the Ombudsmen Offices, one delegation asked whether these arrangements were a substitute for UNHCR's monitoring and protection of refugees and returnees, or whether they were intended to act as an early warning mechanism.

10. One delegation queried the need to continue implementing Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in Belize and questioned UNHCR's support at this stage of national post-CIREFCA (International Conference on Central American Refugees) mechanisms. Several delegations expressed interest in knowing more about the partnership between UNHCR and the Organization of American States. Several delegations asked whether the time had come to invoke the cessation clause to Central American refugees. The Director responded that this clause could not be applied until profound and durable changes could be verified, that this subject was receiving continuous attention. He invited delegations wishing to do so to engage in bilateral talks on issues of mutual concern.

11. One delegation requested that more scope be given in the documentation put forward to the Committee on policies on behalf of women and children and on their results.

B. Update on Regional Developments in Asia and Oceania

12. The Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and Oceania introduced the *Update on Regional Developments in Asia and Oceania* (EC/46/SC/CRP.44) by noting that there had been several significant developments within the Asian region since its publication. The Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA), which formally concluded on 30 June 1996, attained certain benchmarks. Indonesia closed Galang Camp and the Philippines would continue to shelter temporarily the remaining Vietnamese population until durable solutions are adopted. In the case of Hong Kong, however, return clearances had lost some of their previous momentum. Voluntary repatriation would continue to be vigorously promoted for Lao in Thailand. The repatriation of refugees from Myanmar in Bangladesh continued, though concerns had arisen over new arrivals. UNHCR was seeking access to these individuals in Bangladesh and continued to monitor and assist returnees in Myanmar. In Nepal, it was hoped that the bilateral negotiations might lead to a mutually agreeable solution. UNHCR for its part stood ready to implement any agreement thus reached. The Director recognized the role played by the Chairman's mission in January 1996 to South Asia in helping to renew dialogue on this issue. In Sri Lanka, UNHCR was providing assistance to internally displaced persons within the framework of a coordinated United Nations response.

13. Taking the floor on this item, several delegations congratulated UNHCR and the States concerned on the progress achieved by the CPA . One delegation noted the importance of reaching a full and complete conclusion of the CPA, particularly in Hong Kong before the handover of sovereignty in June 1997, and underlined the need to find durable solutions for all Vietnamese refugees. Two delegations expressed the hope that cases pending clearance in Hong Kong would be processed quickly so as to bring the CPA to a full and final conclusion.

14. Several delegations expressed interest in being kept informed of developments with regard to exploring solutions for the refugee caseload in Nepal and showed appreciation for the initiative taken by UNHCR in meeting with the Bhutanese Government. With regard to UNHCR's operation in Myanmar, one delegation expressed the view that alleviation of poverty of returnees could be seen to be a developmental task beyond the terms of UNHCR's mandate.

15. One delegation noted that there seemed to be an inconsistency in the document with regard to statistics involving women and children. It was suggested that the terms "women" and "children" be defined clearly and applied consistently; the Director agreed this would be done. One delegation announced that it would be holding a Conference on Regional Approaches to Refugees and Displaced persons in late November in Canberra, Australia. Another delegation announced that it would be giving financial support to the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee's seminar which was scheduled to be held in Manila in early December.

C. Update on Developments in the Great Lakes Region of Africa

16. The Coordinator of the Special Unit for Rwanda and Burundi gave an oral update on the situation in the Great Lakes region of Africa.

17. In Zaire, he expressed concern over targeting by the local population in the southern Kivu region of the Banyamulengue people, a population of Rwandan extraction which had been living in Zaire for many decades. About 250 of them had already fled to Rwanda, while others threatened armed resistance, creating a security crisis which also jeopardized the lives of humanitarian workers in the area.

18. The Coordinator welcomed the recent meeting between the Prime Ministers of Zaire and Rwanda in Kigali, the assurance subsequently conveyed to UNHCR by the Zairian Prime Minister that any repatriation would be voluntary and that UNHCR would be involved in the planning of return movements, and the Rwandan communiqué which underscored the necessity for orderly return. He then noted the fears amongst refugees of *refoulement*, which led to a refugee boycott of UNHCR's scheduled routine verification exercise. The resulting tensions made access for relief workers to the camps impossible for a few days, but assistance was not suspended. However, food rations, which were in short supply, had been reduced by half. Problems of malnutrition were already evident. Finally, of great concern was the proximity of the camps to the Rwandan border, which created severe security problems.

19. In Burundi, the volatile security situation had provoked various movements both in and out of the country. In July, 15,000 Rwandan refugees were sent back to Rwanda in a forced return organized by the Burundi

Government. Later in July, the new Government put a halt to the *refoulement*, but continuing uncertainty about future security led another 50,000 refugees to decide to return in end-July/early-August to Rwanda, where government authorities , along with UNHCR and the IOM, transported the returnees to their home communes. UNHCR was scaling down its activities in Burundi since most of the refugees had repatriated. However, there remained about 300,000 Burundi refugees in the region who would eventually have to be assisted in their return.

20. In Rwanda, a genocide law was passed by the Parliament , a significant development leading to a foundation for a judicial process under which trials for the crime of genocide would begin. Continuing security problems in the western part of the country discouraged repatriation, but the Coordinator said that Rwanda seemed to be making overall progress toward stability and that the Government's policy to welcome the return of refugees was encouraging.

IV. ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1995/56

21. The Director of the Geneva office of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) opened this item by informing the meeting of the expectation that the DHA-established inter-agency task force on coordination would report on progress made in its work to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Working Group (IASC-WG) meeting scheduled for 26 and 27 September 1996. The Assistant High Commissioner then presented the document entitled *Follow-up to ECOSOC Resolution 1995/56: Coordination of Humanitarian Operations* (EC/46/SC/CRP.47). In their introductions, both the DHA representative and the Assistant High Commissioner stressed that there remained much work to be done, including in bridging the intergovernmental and inter-agency processes, in order to present a series of conclusions and recommendations to ECOSOC in mid-1997.

22. A large number of delegations took the floor on this item, with most of them stressing the importance they gave to the strengthening of coordination amongst the various actors in humanitarian emergency response. Several welcomed the directness of the paper before them in putting forth UNHCR's views regarding coordination. A number of delegations called for the further development and elaboration of criteria on the lead agency concept. Two delegations suggested that field coordination in former Yugoslavia be examined in order to gain a clearer picture of the lead agency approach, including resource requirements. Several others supported the use of specific experiences in the dialogue on coordination and encouraged UNHCR to continue and further lessons learnt exercises. One delegation expressed the desire to see more emphasis on the role of national Governments and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in coordination. A number of delegations, while noting their appreciation of the Consolidated Appeals Process, expressed their desire to see more prioritization therein. The hope was expressed by several delegations that there would be concrete results from the forthcoming IASC-WG meeting on coordination, as well as on the role of the IASC in furthering coordination.

23. Several delegations mentioned the need for early agreement and joint planning as put forth in the paper. One stated that repatriation and reintegration should not be seen as separate tasks. Another highlighted the

Mozambique experience and encouraged further attempts at joint planning. Another delegation suggested that secondment of staff was another mechanism to further coordination. Two delegations mentioned the importance of strengthening and widening the Resident Coordinator system. Certain delegations expressed concern that different actors' mandates be respected, and suggested that a forward-looking system of complementarity be delineated. One delegation urged that dialogue on this topic should now be taken to a second stage, beyond that being undertaken by member States and agencies in their governing boards. Another asked how the UNHCR restructuring towards a situation-based approach would affect coordination, particularly at the country level.

24. In his response, the DHA representative indicated that the IASC sub-working group on coordination group would indeed be focusing on criteria for the lead agency concept and would be looking at both strategic and operational coordination. He agreed with UNHCR on the importance of furthering predictable complementarity and interoperability. Both he and the Assistant High Commissioner stressed that lead agency was but one option, albeit a preferred one in UNHCR's view, and was dependent on the character of specific emergencies. The Assistant High Commissioner also added that the lead agency for a given emergency could change over time. He confirmed that country level coordination would continue, but suggested that the IASC and its working group might examine regional and sub-regional coordination mechanisms. He reaffirmed that UNHCR would continue in the process of developing operational Memorandum of Understanding at various levels. He also reassured delegations that UNHCR did consider secondment of staff a means of furthering coordination. In concluding this item the Assistant High Commissioner stressed that predictability and timeliness in humanitarian response would assist in limiting both the length and breadth of UNHCR's role.

V. STRATEGIC POLICY FORMULATION AND DISSEMINATION

25. The Acting Director of the Centre for Documentation and Research introduced EC/46/SC/CRP.49, *Enhancing UNHCR's Capacity for Policy Research, Analysis and Dissemination*. He elaborated on the point that UNHCR was attempting to build upon its documentation and databases to develop an institutional capacity for policy research and strategic policy formulation and dissemination. This was a particularly challenging endeavour in that UNHCR was attempting to develop this capacity from existing resources through redeployment of personnel. The Director provided further information on the planned policy research agenda covering topics such as forcible transfer of populations, prevention and repatriation in the transition from war to peace. Finally, he emphasized the importance of external linkages with academic and policy institutions.

26. Delegations generally welcomed the endeavours to enhance UNHCR's policy research and strategic thinking capacity. One delegation noted that this endeavour could be taken as a model for other agencies, while others sought reassurance that UNHCR's policy research would be done in collaboration with other agencies. Another delegation queried how the policy research function related to other internal activities such as protection and evaluation, and asked for details of a work plan for policy research. A number of

delegations sought additional information on how external resources could be used to advance UNHCR's policy research work.

27. In his response, the Director expressed appreciation for the support voiced by the delegations for the new Centre for Documentation and Research. He affirmed that UNHCR emphasized collaboration with other agencies, citing a recent UNHCR conference on repatriation, reconstruction and reconciliation where United Nations humanitarian, peace-keeping and political agencies and departments were represented at the highest level. On the issue of resources, he mentioned upcoming policy conferences that were to be funded by external resources. Finally, he indicated that UNHCR would report back to the Standing Committee on its proposed work-plan and how policy research relates to operational activities.

VI. REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WORKING METHODS

28. Introducing the document *Review of Executive Committee Working Methods* (A/AC.96/868), the Secretary of the Executive Committee noted that today's discussion was not intended to be conclusive since a complete cycle of work had yet to be completed and important aspects of the new arrangements still had to be tested. The item would be on the agenda of the Executive Committee plenary session for further discussion. He recalled that the Executive Committee had introduced new working methods last year on an experimental basis and had decided to review those arrangements after one full cycle of annual meetings. At its forthcoming plenary session, the Executive Committee therefore needed to return to this question and to decide whether or not it wished to adopt the new working arrangements definitively. During 1996, the Standing Committee had undertaken the programme of work established by the plenary, adopted a number of decisions and conclusions on matter included in its programme of work and had received documentation within the established deadlines. Further improvements in the servicing of the meetings could undoubtedly be made on the basis of experience gained which, from UNHCR's point of view, had been largely positive. He suggested that in adopting its new working methods in October the Executive Committee might wish to return to the question of enhanced observer participation which it had explicitly left pending. The Executive Committee might wish to establish a process of consultations which could, as appropriate, feed into the Standing Committee next year. The Chairman informed delegations that he had met with NGOs the week before on the issue of their participation in the work of the plenary and the Standing Committee, agreeing with them that there would be further informal discussions on the issue after the October plenary session.

29. Most delegations taking the floor on this item voiced their general support for the new Executive Committee working methods while nonetheless qualifying this support by noting the process was still in its initial stage. One delegation felt that it would be useful to receive a briefing by UNHCR managers on their assessment of the new methods.

30. The subject of enhanced NGO participation generated much comment, with a general tendency among speakers to urge caution, to warn against any erosion in the efficiency and focus of meetings. One delegation, which favoured in principle the notion of enhanced NGO participation, suggested that there should nonetheless be the possibility of restricting access to particular meetings. The delegation underlined that NGOs should not have a negotiating

role. Another delegation mentioned the possibility of self-regulating mechanisms for NGO participation. Two delegations recommended stepping back, and examining conceptually the NGO-UNHCR governing body interaction and relationship.

31. Commenting on the draft decision on Executive Committee Working Methods, some delegations posed questions regarding a proposed change to rule 43 (43 ter). One wondered if the suggestion for a list of intergovernmental organizations to be invited to subsidiary body meetings was a once only process; another queried the utility of the change, and urged that greater flexibility be allowed in inviting intergovernmental organizations.

32. On other matters, several delegations wished to know what savings, if any, would be incurred through the implementation of the new methods. One delegation advocated flexibility in terms of regional reviews, in order for topical situations to be examined by the Committee. Another delegation wondered whether document distribution could not be effected electronically. Yet another delegation asked for greater clarity in establishing the dates for Standing Committee and related meetings.

33. Responding to the questions on NGO participation, podium speakers agreed that the issue was a complex one. Regarding NGO-UNHCR Executive Committee interaction, pre-Executive Committee consultations with NGOs, UNHCR post-Standing Committee debriefings to NGOs, and the derestriction of Standing Committee documents after meetings were cited as examples of the nature of current interaction.

34. Regarding the proposed revision to the Executive Committee rules of procedure (43 ter), the Secretary explained that the reason for the proposed change was to redress an anomaly between the rules governing observer Government participation and those determining intergovernmental participation. Under present rules, Government Observer participation was subject to more stringent requirements than intergovernmental observer participation.

35. The new Executive Committee working methods would indeed give rise to savings, the Secretary explained, but much of those savings would be made under the United Nations regular budget rather than UNHCR voluntary funds. The halving of documentation, with its concomitant reduction in translation and reproduction costs, accounted for the bulk of the savings effected under the new methods. Regarding flexibility in the regional reviews, the Secretariat felt that there would be no problem in accommodating this request. On the question of dates, and the scheduling of Standing Committee meetings, the Secretary explained that the dates for subsidiary body meetings were clearer under the new structure, but that the scheduling of consultations had been somewhat less predictable.

VII. REPORTS RELATING TO OVERSIGHT

A. Human Resources Management

36. The Director of the Division of Human Resources Management introduced the document entitled *Human Resources Management* (EC/46/SC/CRP.46), and noted measures taken to address references made to training and consultancies in

the Report of the Board of Auditors (A/AC.96/853, paras. 125 to 136). She said that training programmes had increased by 80 per cent in 1995 as compared to the previous year. Job related courses had particularly focused on the need to train staff in UNHCR's administrative and financial procedures. A training advisory board had been created which now helped manage the global training budget as well as setting priorities for training activities.

37. The Director said that measures had been taken to improve administration of consultants and that the latest Internal Auditor's report noted marked improvement in this area.

38. One delegation requested that UNHCR continue to make training related information and material accessible to Governments and NGOs; another delegation noted the implications of the Delphi plan of action in respect of greatly increased training needs.

B. Inspection and Evaluation Activities

39. The principal Officer of the Inspection and Evaluation Service (IES) introduced the document *UNHCR's Inspection and Evaluation Activities* (A/AC.96/870).

40. Delegates generally stressed the importance of the inspection and evaluation of UNHCR's activities, and the follow-up to recommendations made as a result of missions. They hoped that these activities would be intensified as they were of crucial importance to the effective accomplishment of UNHCR's tasks. Several delegates expressed an interest in closer interaction between the IES and the Executive Committee. Several delegations indicated an interest in making evaluation proposals. One delegation requested that UNHCR conduct an evaluation of the regional support unit for refugee children as a starting point in an assessment of UNHCR's progress to implement the UNHCR guidelines on refugee children. Another delegation requested a similar evaluation of progress made in respect of the implementation of the policy and guidelines on refugee women. A request was made for a clear distinction between inspection, evaluation and internal audit, and for clarity on the division of labour there, and between the Controller's office and IES. One delegation also said it would like to see more reference to and consultation with the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS).

41. Several delegations raised the subject of openness in inspection and evaluation activities. While appreciating the confidentiality of much of the inspection work, delegates expressed a keen interest in sharing information on the activities undertaken, and asked if there would be scope for more joint evaluations, with Governments or other agencies.

VIII. PROGRAMMES AND FUNDING

42. This item and its related documentation (A/AC.96/865 and its three addenda) was introduced by the Director of the Division of Programmes and Operational Support, and by the Head of the Fund Raising Service. Attention was also drawn to the relevant sections of the report of the Advisory

Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (A/AC.96/865/Add.4).

43. The Director of the Division of Programmes and Operational Support reviewed the 1996 revised programme estimates and the initial 1997 programme needs. Within revised 1996 overall programme needs (as at 1 September 1996) estimated at $ 1,358,200,000, the revised General Programmes target remained at $ 445,327,000. The overall needs for 1997 were currently estimated at $ 1.1 billion, including a proposed General Programmes 1997 target, which the Executive Committee would be asked to approve, of $ 452,612,000.

44. The Head of the Fund Raising Service noted that, as at 2 October 1996, new contributions to both General and Special programmes since 1 January 1996 amounted to $ 775 million. He expressed particular satisfaction with the trend of increased contributions to General Programmes. The serious funding situation for the Great Lakes Region of Africa and the former-Yugoslavia was also highlighted, as was the need for funds for voluntary repatriation programmes in West Africa, especially to Togo and Mali.

45. Delegations, in welcoming the ACABQ report, underlined the need for it to be available to the Standing Committee in a timely fashion. Several delegations focused on the level of carry-over of funds (both under General and Special Programmes) into 1996, in particular balances remaining under the Voluntary Repatriation Fund and the Programme Reserve. In the light of the recently enlarged terms of reference for these two contingency funds, the question was raised as to their use for operations currently experiencing funding difficulties. Some delegations referred to the comments of the ACABQ on the definitions of Programme Delivery and Administrative Support costs, the application of these definitions, and the upward trend of these costs; it was asked that this issue be reviewed in the course of 1997. Another delegation stressed the need to highlight in the budgetary documentation changes in the sources of funding for operations (namely, operations moved from Special Programmes to General Programmes), and those operations which had been, or would be, terminated. Sustained efforts to broaden UNHCR's donor base were also urged. One delegation cautioned UNHCR as regards trends in grade level of staffing: UNHCR should not become a top-heavy organization. Other points raised by the ACABQ were echoed by various delegations: the need for better budgetary estimates, including more accurate numbers of beneficiaries, the necessity of enhanced training of NGOs, especially in administration and financial matters, and of a better picture of overall resources being allocated to training by UNHCR; the merits of involving implementing partners in the relevant deliberations of the Executive Committee, especially with a view to improving their accountability; the need to reflect in the Overview document the concrete results of oversight reports reflecting improved efficiency.

IX. FINANCIAL MATTERS

46. The Controller and Director of the Division of the Controller and Management Services introduced the first document under this agenda item, *Voluntary Funds administered by the High Commissioner: Accounts for the year 1995* (A/AC.96/866), by stating that the accounts conformed to the United Nations accounting standards and had been certified as such by the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations. The Controller drew delegates'

attention to the audit opinion expressed on page 3 of the document and reminded them that this was the same certification as that required of implementing partners, as discussed in *Audit of Implementing Partners* (EC/46/CRP.45) (see below).

47. Moving on to the *Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds administered by UNHCR for the period ended December 1995* (A/AC.96/869), the Controller noted that audit recommendations had been received on the following: audit certificates, programme budgeting and budgetary control, programme management, procurement, human resources management, Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) and financial statements. He pointed out that responses to these recommendations could be found in *Measures taken or proposed in response to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors* (A/AC.96/869/Add.1) and that UNHCR looked forward to discussing these recommendations further at future Standing Committees.

48. Introducing EC/46/CRP.45, the Controller explained that the document was produced in response to problems UNHCR had experienced with compliance by implementing partners of the current audit certification requirement. The proposals were a proactive initiative to obtain assurance of the financial health of partners before entering into agreements, i.e. by pre-selection and pre-audit, and by selective post-execution audit certification. UNHCR had sought advice and comments from the OIOS, the External Auditors and the ACABQ. The Controller then quoted from page 4 of the 1995 ACABQ report (A/AC.96/853/Add.1), in which the ACABQ suggested that UNHCR make proposals to change the requirements rather than face non-compliance. It was in response to recommendations from the External Auditors, and on the advice of the ACABQ, that UNHCR was presenting the proposal on certification.

49. In EC/46/CRP.45/Add.1, the comments from the OIOS and the Director of the External Audit were presented. The Controller pointed out that OIOS welcomed UNHCR's pre-qualification approach, and that they had no objection to giving up the requirement for 100 per cent audit certification and adopting a more selective and scientific approach. They also made some suggestions on risk assessment. The External Auditors, while also congratulating UNHCR on the initiative, said that anything less than a 100 per cent certification would require them to qualify the UNHCR accounts. The ACABQ report welcomed the approach but questioned the percentage of coverage. The Controller acknowledged that further discussion with the External Auditors was needed, and that, while UNHCR was not asking the Standing Committee for endorsement at this stage, comments and questions would be welcome.

50. During interventions from the delegations, UNHCR was encouraged to deal with systemic problems that emerged on an annual basis in the audit reports; it was suggested that management training and accountability would help to address this. Several delegations welcomed UNHCR's approach on the issue of audit certification, and encouraged UNHCR to continue consultations with the External Auditors and OIOS to reach agreement on the percentage and the modalities for implementation. The importance of implementation monitoring and control was stressed, and the possibility of using framework agreements was proposed to rationalize the contracting procedure. One delegation gave

full endorsement to the proposals and supported UNHCR's efforts in this regard.

51. The Controller assured delegations that the dialogue with the External Auditors would be pursued and that the Standing Committee would be kept informed. It was agreed that this item would be considered by the Standing Committee in 1997.

X. REPORT ON UNHCR'S CHANGE MANAGEMENT PROCESS

52. The Deputy High Commissioner introduced the document *Project Delphi: Plan of Action* (EC/46/SC/CRP.48). He noted that the Plan was produced within the time limit, almost entirely relying on existing staff and institutional resources. UNHCR was not seeking budgetary approvals at this stage, he said, but was rather asking Standing Committee endorsement of the broad directions foreseen in the Delphi Plan of Action. The Deputy High Commissioner undertook to maintain close consultations with the Executive Committee on the progress of Project Delphi.

53. Delegations agreed with the main thrust of the Action Plan and expressed their appreciation for the comprehensive nature of the review undertaken by UNHCR, and its use of internal resources. Delegations welcomed the decision to delegate more operation management authority to the field while cautioning that such delegation should not be at the expense of oversight and accountability. Delegation to the field should also not result in the weakening of core central functions like protection and reporting to Executive Committee members. Some speakers highlighted the importance of training for all staff, to support the change process, with particular attention to be given to the training of managers. Other speakers cautioned of the dangers of acquiring and developing new technology without a full understanding and a clear definition of user needs.

54. On the proposal in the document *Project Delphi: Plan of Action* (EC/46/SC/CRP.48, para.86) to consult with the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services on the transfer of the internal audit function relating to (and currently resourced by) UNHCR from the Audit and Management Consulting Division (AMCD) in the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) to UNHCR, a number of delegations drew attention to, and concurred with, the observations of the ACABQ on this issue. The Deputy High Commissioner assured the meeting that, in accord with the ACABQ's comments, it was UNHCR's intention to continue discussions with the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services on the issue, and to present to the Standing Committee in the course of 1997 a comprehensive paper on issues related to internal audit, which would take into account the report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/218B.

55. Clarification about the situational approach was also sought by one delegation concerned that this concept should not impede the necessary country specific focus.

56. The Deputy High Commissioner and other members of UNHCR's senior management thanked Committee members for the encouragement and addressed extensively the issues and concerns expressed by delegates. The Committee was informed that UNHCR would now proceed with the formulation of a detailed

implementation plan as part of its effort to improve and streamline procedures. The Executive Committee would be kept informed of all major developments under Project Delphi. UNHCR would also revert on financial implications of the change programme at its January 1997 Standing Committee meeting. The draft decision endorsing the broad directions of the Action Plan for Project Delphi was adopted by the meeting (annexed). One delegation reserved the right to revert to the question, following further consultation.

XI. RENTAL OF UNHCR'S HEADQUARTERS PREMISES

57. The Chairman introduced *Montbrillant Building: Rental Costs* (EC/46/SC/CRP.40) and its addendum, and reminded the Committee that the issue had already been discussed at the June Standing Committee meeting and that delegations had asked for more time to consider the issue. The Controller then gave a history of the issue, citing the ACABQ's reports and letters (A/CN.1/R.1152 and EC/1992/SC.2/CRP.3, Annex 1) as well as the document submitted to the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters in 1992 (EC/1992/SC.2/CRP.3). He then quoted from the High Commissioner's January 1996 letter to the Swiss authorities in which she asked that UNHCR be accorded the same consideration as the World Trade Organization with regard to rental. In June 1996, the Swiss Government responded with the offer now under consideration. The ACABQ, in their recent report, had also considered the matter and made recommendations.

58. Interventions from the floor focused on two questions: first if delegations could be assured that the SwF 2.4 million could be considered a ceiling and that the rental would not increase, and second, if UNHCR could obtain clarification from the Swiss authorities as to whether the additional SwF 2 million contribution was in addition to their contributions to UNHCR's General Programmes. Some delegations felt that more clarity was needed with regard to maintenance costs, and comparative figures showing rentals paid by other international organizations, and that a consolidated paper should be prepared incorporating all this information. The Swiss delegation responded that the SwF 2 million increased contribution was indeed in addition to the General Programme contribution. It also noted that the final cost of the building had not yet been determined definitively but that it probably would not exceed the SwF 121 million which the Swiss parliament had granted to the FIPOI.

59. It was decided that more time was needed to consider a consolidated paper which UNHCR would produce. A special session of the Standing Committee would therefore be convened before the end of December 1996 to consider this issue.

XII. REVIEW OF DRAFT DECISIONS AND CONCLUSIONS FOR THE FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

60. The Rapporteur informed the Standing Committee of the two rounds of informal consultations that had already been held to draft decisions and conclusions for the forty-seventh session of the Standing Committee. A third round was scheduled for the next day (3 October). General agreement had been reached on much of the General Conclusion on International Protection as well as on the Conclusion on the CIS Conference and the Decision on Executive Committee Working Methods. While the Rapporteur indicated his intention to

complete at least one full initial review of all seven proposed decisions and conclusions prior to the start of the Executive Committee, he added that the texts of each remained open to change until adopted by the Executive Committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

61. The Chairman reminded delegations that the Standing Committee would reconvene on 8 October to consider the adoption of the report of its fourth meeting. He then adjourned the meeting.

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE FOURTH STANDING COMMITTEE

DECISION ON THE ACTION PLAN FOR PROJECT DELPHI

The Standing Committee,

(a) Welcomes the Action Plan for Project Delphi (EC/46/SC/CRP.48) and endorses its broad directions;

(b) Requests the High Commissioner to present to the January 1997 meeting of the Standing Committee a more detailed assessment of the financial implications of the Plan;

(c) Asks to be kept regularly informed on progress in relation to Project Delphi.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-seventh session

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

1. At its forty-sixth session in October 1995, the Executive Committee adopted a decision on the programme of work of the Standing Committee in 1996 (A/AC.96/860, para. 34) in which it set out the issues to be examined by the Standing Committee.

2. In accordance with the decision on Executive Committee Working Methods, also adopted at the forty-sixth session (A/AC.96/860, para. 32), the Standing Committee held four meetings in the course of 1996: in January, April, June and September/October. A planning meeting of Executive Committee members in December 1995 established the calendar of meetings and determined the distribution of the different agenda items (see Annex I).

3. A detailed account of the work undertaken at each of the meetings of the Standing Committee is contained in the following reports: A/AC.96/861: *Report of the First Meeting of the Standing Committee (30-31 January 1996)*; A/AC.96/862: *Report of the Second Meeting of the Standing Committee (10-11 April 1996)*; A/AC.96/873: *Report of the Third Meeting of the Standing Committee (25-27 June 1996)*; A/AC.96/874: *Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee (16-17 September and 2 October 1996)*.

Issues covered by the Standing Committee in 1996

4. The work undertaken by the Standing Committee included a number of recurrent items. As foreseen in the Decision on Budget Structure and Governance (A/AC/96/860, para. 22(l)), in depth reviews of UNHCR programmes in different regions were conducted at each of the meetings, allowing the Standing Committee to oversee more effectively the evolution of General and Special Programmes in the areas concerned. Europe and South-West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East were reviewed in April; Africa in June; and Asia and Oceania and the Americas and the Caribbean in September. These reviews

were conducted on the basis of documentation agreed by the Standing Committee and, as foreseen, were introduced by the Directors of the Regional Bureaux concerned (A/AC.96/860, para. 22(m)).

5. In addition, the Standing Committee reviewed at each of its meetings regular updates on programme and funding issues, through which it kept abreast of the overall situation in terms of General and Special programme budgets, funding, and allocations made from the various criteria funds (programme reserve, emergency fund and voluntary repatriation fund).

6. At each of its meetings, the Standing Committee also considered aspects of ECOSOC resolution 1995/56 on the strengthening of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations. In accordance with the decision adopted by the forty-sixth session (A/AC.96/860, para. 23), the Standing Committee at its January meeting determined a framework for examining the different aspects of the resolution. In January it looked at aspects of emergency response, in April at solution-oriented activities in countries of origin, including protection considerations, in June it turned its attention to prevention, and in September it examined broader issues of coordination. A conclusion on these discussions is being submitted to the forty-seventh session for adoption.

7. In accordance with the Decision on Executive Committee Working Methods (A/AC.96/865, para. 32(d)), the June meeting of the Standing Committee focused particularly on questions of international protection. Two days were devoted to consideration of the Note on International Protection (A/AC.96/863), which examined on the question of comprehensive and regional approaches to refugee problems, and to a number of other issues stemming from the conclusions on international protection adopted at the forty-sixth session. It reviewed a progress report on the informal consultations on the provision of international protection to all who need it, UNHCR's role in legal and judicial capacity-building, resettlement, and the return of persons not in need of international protection. Conclusions resulting from the Standing Committee's consideration of these protection issues are being submitted to the forty-seventh session for adoption.

8. At its various meetings, the Standing Committee also reviewed audit and oversight issues identified by the Executive Committee. In January, it examined audit comments relating to procurement and property, in April it looked at the monitoring and control of implementing partners and in June it reviewed audit questions relating to training and consultancies. The Committee also took up broader issues of evaluation; notably, it revisited in June the evaluation of UNHCR's response to the Rwanda emergency.

9. The question of overhead costs of international NGO implementing partners was also addressed by the Standing Committee which, following a series of informal consultations chaired by the Rapporteur, adopted a decision in April establishing the conditions for a UNHCR contribution to such costs and a further decision in June setting the level of that contribution.

10. In terms of management and administrative matters, the Standing Committee was kept regularly apprised, by means of oral reports, of progress made in UNHCR's change management process (Project Delphi) and it reviewed a document containing the Delphi Action Plan at its resumed meeting in October.

11. The Standing Committee also undertook a preliminary review, in the light of the Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ (A/AC.96/865/Add.4), of budgetary and financial documentation being presented to the forty-seventh session of the Executive Committee. Although the decision on Executive Committee working methods had foreseen that the Standing Committee would not meet immediately prior to the forty-seventh session of the Executive Committee, the timing of the issue of the ACABQ report was such that the September meeting had, nonetheless, to resume its work on 2 October 1996.

Standing Committee decisions

12. In accordance with the authority vested in it by the Executive Committee, the Standing Committee adopted a number of decisions on matters included in its programme of work. The texts of these decisions are annexed to the reports of the different Standing Committee meetings as follows:

A/AC.96/861: *Report of the First Meeting of the Standing Committee 30-31 January 1996)*

- Decision on programme and funding
- Decision on the Medium Term Plan
- Decision on Property
- Decision on International Procurement
- Decision on UNHCR Financial Rules

A/AC.96/862 *Report of the Second Meeting of the Standing Committee (10-11 April 1996)*

- Decision on programme and funding
- Decision on the support costs of international NGO partners
- Decision on audit follow-up: programme and financial management
- Decision on Executive Committee documentation
- Decision on amendments to the work programme of the Standing Committee

A/AC.96/873: *Report of the Third Meeting of the Standing Committee (25-27 June 1996)*

- Decision on the annual theme for the forty-seventh session of the Executive Committee
- Decision on programme and funding projections
- Decision on lessons learnt from the Rwanda emergency
- Decision on internal oversight mechanisms
- Decision on headquarters support costs of international NGO partners

A/AC.96/874: *Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee (16-17 September and 2 October 1996)*

- Project Delphi

Plenary decisions: preparation of drafts by the Standing Committee

13. On the basis of discussions undertaken in the course of the year, and as foreseen in the Executive Committee's decision on its working methods (A/AC.96/860, para. 32 (u)), the Standing Committee initiated the preparation of draft decisions and conclusions for submission to the forty-seventh session of the Executive Committee. In a series of informal consultations under the chairmanship of the Rapporteur, the following draft decisions and conclusions have been discussed:

- General conclusion on international protection (item 5[1])
- Conclusions on comprehensive and regional approaches in a protection framework (item 5)
- Conclusion on the CIS Conference (item 4)
- Conclusions on the implementation of ECOSOC resolution 1995/56 (item 5)
- General decision on programme, administrative and financial matters (item 6/7)
- Decision on Executive Committee working methods (item 8)
- Decision on the programme of work of the Executive Committee in 1997 (item 9)

[1] Numbers refer to items on the agenda of the forty-seventh session of the Executive Committee.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STANDING COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1996

	30-31 January	10-11 April	25-27 June	16-17 Sept./2 Oct.
Regional reviews	• Global overview • Former Yugoslavia • Great Lakes	• Europe/SWANAME • Other important developments	• Africa • Other important developments	• Asia/Americas • Other important developments
Programme and funding issues	• Update on programmes and funding • UN medium-term plan	• Update on programmes and funding • Update on voluntary repatriation	• Update on programmes and funding	• Review of Overview document and related ACABQ report[1]
ECOSOC resolution 1995/56	• Overall discussion • Emergency response (MOUs, operational and financial capacity, consolidated appeals)	• UNHCR activities/protection role in countries of origin	• Prevention	• Coordination of humanitarian operations
Reports relating to oversight	• Procurement and property • Planned evaluation activities 1996 • Audit issues	• Programme and financial management, monitoring and reporting issues	• Joint evaluation of emergency assistance to Rwanda • Internal oversight mechanism	• Human resources management (training, consultancies) • Inspection and evaluation
Management/ administrative matters	• Progress report, including Headquarters staffing levels	• Progress report, including Headquarters structure • Information management	• Progress report on Project Delphi	• Delphi Action Plan[2]
Overhead costs NGO implementing partners	• Progress report on informal technical consultations	• Overhead costs	• Overhead costs	

[1] To be considered on 2 October.
[2] To be considered on 2 October.

	30-31 January	10-11 April	25-27 June	16-17 Sept./2 Oct.
Review of UNHCR financial rules	• Review of UNHCR financial rules			
1995 accounts and audit		• Preliminary report on 1995 accounts		• 1995 accounts and Audit Report[3]
Excom documentation		• Excom documentation		
International Protection			• Note on International Protection • The 'gap' • Legal/judicial capacity-building • Resettlement • Return • Follow-up to conclusions on international protection	
Annual theme			• Discussion of annual theme for 47th Excom plenary	
Draft decisions				• Review of draft decisions and conclusions for 47th session
Excom working methods				• Review
Any other business	• Any other business	• Any other business	• MBT rental costs • Any other business	• MBT rental costs • Strategic policy formulation • Any other business

[3] To be considered on 2 October.

STANDING COMMITTEE DOCUMENTATION ISSUED DURING 1996[1]

1st meeting (30 - 31 January 1996)

EC/46/SC/CRP.1	Draft Annotated Agenda
EC/46/SC/CRP.2/Rev.2	United Nations Medium Term Plan: 1998-2001 - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Programme 20: Protection and Assistance to Refugees
EC/46/SC/CRP.3	Financial Rules for Voluntary Funds administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees
EC/46/SC/CRP.4 and Add.1	Overall Programme and Funding Projections for 1995 and 1996
EC/46/SC/CRP.5	Information Paper: Property
EC/46/SC/CRP.6	Background Note on International Procurement
EC/46/SC/CRP.7	Follow-up to ECOSOC resolution 1995/56 - Operational and Financial Capacity of UNHCR in view of its Mandate and Role: Emergency Response
EC/46/SC/CRP.8	Follow-up to ECOSOC Resolution 1995/56 - Information Note on the Development of Operative Memoranda of Understanding
EC/46/SC/CRP.9	Follow-up to ECOSOC Resolution 1995/56 - Consolidated Appeals
EC/46/SC/CRP.10	UNHCR's Evaluation Activities for 1996
EC/46/SC/CRP.11 and Corr.1	Overview of Regional Developments (October to December 1995)
EC/46/SC/CRP.12	Consideration of ECOSOC Resolution 1995/56
EC/46/SC/CRP.13	Audit Issues
EC/46/SC/INF.1	Correspondence from the Permanent Mission of Sudan

[1] Standing Committee documents are available in English and French only.

2nd meeting (10 - 11 April 1996)

EC/46/SC/CRP.14	Draft Annotated Agenda
EC/46/SC/CRP.15	Draft Report of the 30-31 January Meeting of the Standing Committee
EC/46/SC/CRP.16	Follow-Up to ECOSOC Resolution 1995/56:UNHCR Assistance Activities in Countries of Origin
EC/46/SC/CRP.17	UNHCR's Protection Role in Countries of Origin
EC/46/SC/CRP.18	Update on Programme and Funding Projections for 1996
EC/46/SC/CRP.19	Information Note on Income and Expenditure for the Year 1995
EC/46/SC/CRP.20	Follow-up to Audit Recommendations: Programme and Financial Management
EC/46/SC/CRP.21	Report on Informal Technical Consultations on Overhead costs of NGO Partners
EC/46/SC/CRP.22	Executive Committee Documentation
EC/46/SC/CRP.23	Update on Voluntary Repatriation Programmes
EC/46/SC/CRP.24 and Corr.1	Update on Regional Developments in Europe
EC/46/SC/CRP.25 and Corr.1	Update on Regional Developments in South West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East

3rd meeting (25 - 27 June 1996)

EC/46/SC/CRP.26/Rev.2	Provisional Annotated Agenda
EC/46/SC/CRP.27	Draft Report of the 10-11 April Meeting of the Standing Committee
EC/46/SC/CRP.28	Lessons Learnt from the Rwanda Emergency: Further Reflections
EC/46/SC/CRP.29	Draft Report of the Secretary-General on Enhancing the Internal Oversight Mechanisms in Operational Funds and Programmes
EC/46/SC/CRP.30	Update on Programme and Funding Projections for 1996 and Tentative Estimates for the 1997 General Programmes Target
EC/46/SC/CRP.31	UNHCR's Role in National Legal and Judicial Capacity-Building
EC/46/SC/CRP.32	Resettlement: An Instrument of Protection and a Durable Solution

EC/46/SC/CRP.33	Follow-up to ECOSOC Resolution 1995/56: UNHCR Activities in Relation to Prevention
EC/46/SC/CRP.34	Progress Report on Informal Consultations on the Provision of International Protection to all who need it
EC/46/SC/CRP.35 and Corr.1 (English only) and Corr.2	Update on Regional Developments in Africa
EC/46/SC/CRP.36 and Corr.1	Return of Persons not in need of International Protection
EC/46/SC/CRP.37 and Corr.1	Note on International Protection
EC/46/SC/CRP.38	Project Delphi
EC/46/SC/CRP.39	Information Note: Documentation Recently Issued by the Division of International Protection
EC/46/SC/CRP.40	Montbrillant Building: Rental Costs

4th meeting (16-17 September/2 October 1996)

EC/46/SC/CRP.40/Add.1	MBT Rental agreement
EC/46/SC/CRP.41/Rev.1	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/46/SC/CRP.42	Draft Report of the Third Meeting of the Standing Committee
EC/46/SC/CRP.43	Update on Regional Developments in the Americas and the Caribbean
EC/46/SC/CRP.44	Update on Regional Developments in Asia and Oceania
EC/46/SC/CRP.45 and Add.1	Audit of implementing partners
EC/46/SC/CRP.46	Reports relating to oversight: Human resource Management
EC/46/SC/CRP.47	Follow-up to ECOSOC Resolution 1995/56: Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
EC/46/SC/CRP.48	Project Delphi: Plan of action
EC/46/SC/CRP.49	Enhancing UNHCR's capacity for policy research, analysis and dissemination
EC/46/SC/CRP.50 and Add.1	Draft Report of Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee (16-17 September and 2 October 1996)

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PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS
ISSUED AT THE FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

A/AC.96/XLVII/L.1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
A/AC.96/861	Report of the First Meeting of the Standing Committee
A/AC.96/862	Report of the Second Meeting of the Standing Committee
A/AC.96/863	Note on International Protection
A/AC.96/864	Agenda
A/AC.96/865	Overview of UNHCR Activities - 1995-1997
Add.1	Expenditure, Budgets and Post Requirements
Add.2 */	Selected Operational Maps
Add.3	Upddate on UNHCR Programme and Funding Projections for 1996 and 1997
Add.4	Report of the ACABQ
A/AC.96/866	Voluntary Funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: Accounts for the year 1995

*/ English and French only

GE.96-02672

A/AC.96/867	Report on the Outcome of and Follow-up to the CIS Conference
A/AC.96/868	Review of Executive Committee Working Methods
A/AC.96/869	Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the Period ended 31 December 1995
Add.1	Measures taken or proposed in response to the recommendations of the Report of the Board of Auditors
Add.2	Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the Board of Auditors Report
A/AC.86/870 and corr.1	UNHCR Inspection and Evaluation Activities (English and French only)
A/AC.96/871	Action taken on Decisions of the Forty-Sixth Session of the Executive Committee
A/AC.96/872	Annual Theme: the Pursuit and Implementation of Solutions
A/AC.96/873	Report of the Third Meeting of the Standing Committee
A/AC.96/874	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee
A/AC.96/875	Report on the Work of the Standing Comittee
A/AC.96/876 */	Provisional list of Documents issued at the Forty-Seventh Session
A/AC.96/877 */	Provisional list of Participants

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-seventh session

LIST OF DOCUMENTS ISSUED AT THE FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

A/AC.96/XLVII/L.1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
A/AC.96/861	Report of the First Meeting of the Standing Committee
A/AC.96/862	Report of the Second Meeting of the Standing Committee
A/AC.96/863	Note on International Protection
A/AC.96/864	Agenda
A/AC.96/865 and Corr.1 (English and French only)	Overview of UNHCR Activities - 1995-1997
Add.1	Expenditure, Budgets and Post Requirements
Add.2 */	Selected Operational Maps
Add.3	Update on UNHCR Programme and Funding Projections for 1996 and 1997
Add.4	Report of the ACABQ
A/AC.96/866	Voluntary Funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: Accounts for the year 1995

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GE.96-03148

A/AC.96/867	Report on the Outcome of and Follow-up to the CIS Conference
A/AC.96/868	Review of Executive Committee Working Methods
A/AC.96/869	Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the Period ended 31 December 1995
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A/AC.96/874	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee
A/AC.96/875	Report on the Work of the Standing Comittee
A/AC.96/876/Rev.1	List of Documents issued at the Forty-Seventh Session
A/AC.96/877/Rev.1	List of Participants
A/AC.96/878	Report of the Forty-Seventh Session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

Summary Records

A/AC.96/SR.507-515	Summary Records of the Forty-Seventh Session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme